

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A press belt made from an elastomer material and forming a closed loop in a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction being perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, the belt having

an inner surface and an outer surface and three layers of reinforcement yarns arranged inside the elastomer material,

an innermost yarn layer closest to the inner surface extending in the longitudinal direction and having adjacent reinforcement yarns spaced in the transverse direction,

a middle yarn layer extending in the transverse direction and having adjacent reinforcement yarns spaced in the longitudinal direction, and

an outermost yarn layer closest to the outer surface of the press belt extending in the longitudinal direction and having adjacent reinforcement yarns spaced in the transverse direction, which absorb energy and are restored from deformation with delay in connection with deformation,

wherein the material and/or structure of the reinforcement yarns of the outermost yarn layer are more flexible than the reinforcement yarns of the innermost yarn layer and middle yarn layer in such a manner that in connection with deformation of the press belt they absorb more energy and are restored from the deformation more slowly than the yarns of the other yarn layers.

2. (Previously Presented) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material and/or structure of the reinforcement yarns of the outermost yarn layer are more flexible than the reinforcement yarns of the middle yarn layer.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcement yarns of the outermost yarn layer are multifilament yarns twisted at a twist level.

6. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcement yarns of at least one of the innermost yarn layer and middle yarn layer are multifilament yarns, the reinforcement yarns of the outermost yarn layer are twisted at a higher twist level than the former.

7. (Previously Presented) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer yarn layer is composed of a plurality of mutually parallel separate reinforcement yarns.

8. (Previously Presented) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outermost yarn layer is composed of one or more adjacent reinforcement yarns twisted spiral-like in the transverse direction of the press belt.

9. (Previously Presented) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a part of the innermost yarn layer and middle yarn layer is composed of a plurality of mutually parallel separate reinforcement yarns in the same layer.

10. (Previously Presented) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the innermost yarn layer is composed of one or more spiral-like adjacent reinforcement yarns twisted in the transverse direction of the press belt.

11. (Previously Presented) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the press belt is for a press associated with paper making.